

EXHIBIT 11  
DATE 2/18/13  
HB 477

House Judiciary Committee

HB477

Vote: YES

A physician should not have the power" to end life", even if asked by the patient. History teaches us that this is so.

Our country was founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We hold a high position on the sanctity of human life. We have invested in suicide prevention hot lines. We have laws that allow officials to temporarily restrain a suicidal person, so that he may be evaluated by trained professionals. We have a very rigorous appeal process before capital punishment is carried out. Montana law presently prohibits any person from helping take the life of another. A physician should not be exempted from this law.

In recent history, Germany had a desire to create a superior German race. They asked their medical community to help in the effort. A special board of physicians established biomedical criteria to determine who should die and who should live. They designed and built public health centers where euthanasia programs were implemented. The centers were used for: involuntary sterilization, euthanasia of the mentally ill and prisoners, and euthanasia of unfit newborns and children with disabilities. The German public had to rise up and stop their own medical community. The German medical community did not recognize and do the right thing.

History teaches us that, as physicians, we should not be entrusted with such power: the power to determine which life is worthy of living.

Most sincerely,

John A. Schvaneveldt, M.D.